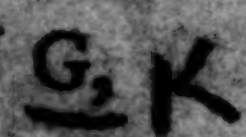


T H E
BUTTON-MAKER'S
J E S T S.

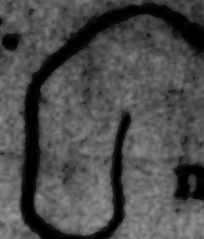
By GEORGE KING, 
Of ST. JAMES'S, BUTTON-MAKER.

CONTAINING

The Cream, Marrow and Fatness of every witty
Thing he either hath, or ever shall say
during his Life.

Calculated to make the Countryman stare, the
Citizen laugh, and the Courtier grin: adapted
both to the sunny Days of Autumn, or the
gloomy Nights of Winter. Embellished with
a curious Copper Plate, finely engraved.

N. B. To prevent Counterfeits, every genuine
Copy will be signed by the Author, with his
own *mark*, as the Family are not very famous
for Spelling or Writing.

His  mark.

Printed for HENRY FREDERICK,
near ST. JAMES'S-SQUARE.

(Where may be had, a curious Collection of Love
Letters, *signed* by the *Publisher*)

And sold by all the Booksellers, Stationers, and
News-carriers in Great-Britain and Ireland.



T H E
B U T T O N - M A K E R ' s
J E S T S .

1. **A** Person asserting, that the art of a *button-maker* was the most respectable of any ; being asked his reason, replied, Because it is professed by a *King*.

2. A gentleman attending the funeral of a *button-maker*, who was a short man, observed that a *button-hole* was big enough for a *button*.

B

3. A

3. A *button-maker* being married to a taylor's daughter ; a gentleman observed, that he always suspected he would get a *button-hole* for his *button*.

4. When the mob insisted on illuminations the night the lord-mayor entertained the minority, one of the crowd said, that it was what he expected, for he knew his lordship was fond of *light suppers*.

5. A gentleman being convicted before a justice of the peace for profane swearing, told the magistrate he was heartily sorry for it, and would never swear another oath as long as he lived, by G--d.

6. A person in the commission of the peace appearing on the bench with a bandage on his eyes, the delinquent who appeared before him, being committed by him, said, as he was going away, I have heard that justice should be blind, but now I find it is so to my cost.

7. A person asking whether it was true, that a certain great personage *laughed* when the lord-mayor and livery appeared before him, was answered, if he did, it was a *serious* thing ; if he did not, it was the best *joke* of the two.

8. On a public rejoicing night, a gentleman passing by as the mob were breaking a quaker's windows in Cheapside, stopped to expostulate with them for their cruelty ; on which one that was near replied, that the gentleman having laboured for some time under a complication of disorders, the mob were so compassionate as to remove some of his *panes*.

9. A sick gentleman having sent for his physician, he asked him several times where his disorder lay ; upon which his wife answered, she believed in his *bead* ; to which he replied, she was right, for he had a pain there ever since she laid all night at a neighbour's house.

10. A patriotic gentleman saying in a public coffee-room, that the city remonstrance would force an answer from a great personage; a courtier replied, he was certain he would not value it a *button*.

11. A gentleman boasting to his wife that he loved her as much as his life; she replied, that was not at all, because he took all the measures he could to put an end to it.

12. A gentleman being dangerously ill, his wife, by way of consolation, told him, she hoped, if he died, he would go to heaven; and if you die, says he, where do you hope to go? to heaven too, answered the wife. God forbid! says the husband, for you have made this world troublesome enough, I hope you will not have it in your power to make the next so.

13. A person saying to his friend, during the ministry of Lord *North*, that he wished he could get a place at court; he replied, if
you

you can but get a *North* wind, you may be sure of coming safe to the wished-for port.

14. A person asking why the courtiers should blacken Mr. Wilkes's character so much ; his friend replied, because they want the people to think him as bad as themselves ; though that is impossible, were he ever so bad.

15. A proclamation for a general fast being delivered to a mayor in the west, as he was thatching his farm, he held it upside down ; which the messenger observing, he answered, he knew that, and would read it which way he pleased by virtue of his office.

16. A sharper having snatched a hat off a gentleman's head, he pursued, crying stop thief ; to which the sharper replied, he was a fool to think he would at his command.

17. A pregnant woman being brought before a justice, by the parish officer, she

denied her being with child ; but the judge replying, that he knew she was with child, and he would maintain it ; if your worship will maintain it, says she, I'll own then that I am with child with all my heart.

18. A woman behaving with insolence before a magistrate, he told her he never saw such a woman in his life ; on which she replied, that he knew not what women he might have seen, but she thought that all women were alike in one particular.

19. A linnen-draper advertising his stock to be sold under *prime cost*, a neighbour of his observed that it was impossible, for he had never paid a farthing for it himself.

20. A London rider and a nobleman putting up at the same inn, the landlord told a person that asked what company he had in his house, that he had got a rider that lived
like

like a lord, and a lord who lived like a rider.

21. The author of a play entitled, *A word to the wife*, advertising it by subscription, though damned in the theatre, a person said, if he knew the meaning of *a word to the wife*, he would never publish it; for in its state of oblivion people might imagine he was much injured, but if he ever printed it, every one would be convinced it deserved its fate.

22. While a party were violent in damning the above play, a gentleman in the pit observed, that they gave themselves unnecessary trouble; for if they would let it pass quietly, it would undoubtedly damn itself.

23. A gentleman saying, that the signs were taken away in the city to oblige those in the court end of the town; another replied, that the gentlemen to the west of Temple-Bar might possibly have some objection to the *hanging* of signs, but he never knew
one

one that had an objection to a *post*, be it ever so *high* a one.

24. A person asking what was become of the celebrated Dr. Samuel Johnson ; another replied, he had been for some time a *Rambler* ; he next turned *Idler* ; and at last dwindled into a spreader of *False Alarms*.

25. Some young gentlemen of Oxford dining at a farmer's in a neighbouring village, one of them observed, that he eat like a farmer ; hold there, says the farmer, for I have not a plough-boy that can eat half so much.

26. A gentleman calling for a bowl of punch at a public house, and thinking the quantity too small, told the landlord that he thought it was too four ; on which the landlord replying, that he thought it too *sweet* ; the gentleman answered, he believed he thought so, else he would have given him more of it.

27. A

27. A countryman having some business in town with a quaker, who had lately been a bankrupt, met him at his own door, and not knowing him personally, asked if he knew where such a person lived; to which the quaker answering, Dost thou not know? Why everybody knows honest John;— that may be, says the countryman, for I myself saw your name in the Gazette.

28. A person asking why every body should be so fond of abusing Lord Bute; a gentleman answered, because they wish to be in his *place*.

29. A person observing that an extravagant couple lighted the candle at both ends; an honest Irishman replied, Arrah, by my shoul, it would be far worse if they were to light it in the middle.

30. A gentleman asking another, why he wrote always with such bad pens; he replied,
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ed, because no one should know how *badly* I write.

31. A gentleman comparing Mr. Wilkes to Daniel in the lion's den ; and being asked to explain himself, replied, because he was confined for not worshipping the *golden image* which the *court* had set up.

32. A corpulent man walking over a part of the way which was paving, the paviours laid by their rammers, and cried God bless you, Sir, you save us a great deal of trouble.

33. As a man was going to be hanged, he observed the mob running towards the place of execution, and addressing them, told them, that if they were in his case, they would not be in so much haste ; but however, they need not be in such a hurry, for there would be no *sport* till he came.

34. The

34. The celebrated Dean Swift, dining with the mayor of Bristol, was served with the part of a duck, and asking for apple-sauce, was told by the mayor there was none; upon which he cut an apple-pie that was upon the table, and putting a spoonful of the apples on his plate, this occasioned the mayor's surprize, who immediately told him, he never knew a man eat *duck more like a goose in his life.*

35. An Hibernian being much pressed with the natural propensity of his countrymen to make bulls, returned the compliment in this manner, "My dare honey, I believe our countrymen, the English, on this side the water, are as great at making bulls as the Irish on the banks of the Shannon. Can there be greater bulls than what you hear every day at the bear warehouse? As soon as you enter, and sit down, without speaking, the landlord will ask you what you call for. If you want a quart of beer, you will hear him calling to his man to take
a full

a *full pot* and draw a pot of beer ; and what is more common than to hear him ordering a bit of bread toasted in it. If, adds he, these be not *bulls* why then I never made a bull myself before I was born.

36. As the famous Theo. Cibber was wiping his face at the Bedford Coffee-house, he rubbed off his artificial nose, which rolled under the table ; on which a gentleman in the same box observed, that it must be very cold weather when a person's nose *dropped* and *run* so much as his did.

37. A gentleman's veracity being much questioned in company, he said that he never had told a lye in his life ; on which one present replied, he was willing then to begin well.

38. Two gentlemen disputing which was the best actor upon the stage ; one of them said Mr. Garrick was ; on which the other replied,

replied, he was under a mistake, for he was the least of an *actor* that he ever saw, being *really* the person he undertook to represent.

39. A gentleman saying that Mr. Garrick would be exceedingly popular, if he should enter into holy orders; another replied, he never knew one so that had; and he was sure Mr. Garrick would lose his popularity if he did.

40. A gentleman wondering why people should be fond of visiting Mr. Wilkes in prison, and unwilling to appear at court, another answered, of two evils they chuse the least.

41. A person saying he could not imagine why people should be so eager after essays, which were abusive of the great; another answered, for this reason, We had rather see another horse whipp'd, than be whipp'd ourselves.

42. A person being asked why the ladies should be so fond of the clergy, and the officers of the army, it was replied, they were fond of the former for the sake of their character, and of being thought good, but they were fond of the latter, because they were able to protect them from insult.

43. Sir Thomas Moore being urged by a friend, to acknowledge the King's supremacy, because it was voted unanimously by the parliament ; replied, if the parliament should vote that the King was God Almighty, do you think I would believe it ?

44. When Mr. Pope dined at Lord Chesterfield's, one of the domestics told his fellow-servant, that he could have known the pope was a great poet by his very shape ; for it was in and out like the lines of a Pindaric ode.

45. A political writer having received a sum of money of the same nobleman, carried
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ed it home ; but the next morning carried it back again, telling his lordship that the possession of it had deprived him of one night's rest already, and that if he should keep it any longer it would kill him for want of sleep.

46. James the First asked one of his domestics, whom he thought the greatest of them two ? He that does not think himself great, answered the courtier. And who is that ? Is it you or I ?

47. It being asked why Mr. Garrick should have been so partial to the author of the comedy called, *A Word to the Wise* ; a person replied, because of the title, it is called, *A Word to the Wise* ; and he expects that the author will declare what wise man he means by dedicating to him.

48. A gentleman wondering that Mr. Garrick should patronize an author, who had abused the town ; he was answered, that the reason might be this, that he found the
author

author had got money by his *abuse*, and he was now trying whether he could not get as much in the same way.

49. A gentleman saying he could not imagine why Mr. Garrick should endeavour to force the comedy called, *A Word to the Wise*, upon the town; another answered, because he was a very great friend to *False Delicacy*.

50. A person saying he thought Mr. Garrick was much to blame for risking his popularity in patriotizing a ministerial writer, it was replied, that he had appeared in most characters on the stage with applause, and was now willing to see what he could do in the character of a *ministerial hireling*; but he was very sorry to say, that the part was as unfit for him as that of Othello, which he attempted without success; or that of Desdæmona for Quin, which he said he would act, when Mr. Garrick should attempt that of Othello.

51. An honest Hibernian being at the theatre the night when the *Word to the Wise* was damned, cried out, by Jasus, my own dear Paddy, were it not for laughing I would cry my eyes out for sorrow ; for have you not been guilty of a great botheration to say, that your play was a *Word to the Wise*, when there was not a wise man in the theatre.

52. A company of Irishmen supping at Dolly's, upon mutton chops, one of them gnawing a bone, another said, he never thought he would be after dealing with the *jaw bone* of an *ass* in that manner.

53. *Pensioner Johnson* being in company with some ladies, said to one of them, Ma. dam, I have the *honour* to tell you, that you know nothing of the matter ; on which the lady replied, that is an honour I should not be proud of assuming, and which no man of breeding would take if it were offered.

54. A person saying at Ashley's, that KELLY was the writer of the LEDGER ; a gentleman immediately replied, I cannot believe it, because I am sure he does not know how to *ballance* his accompts.

55. A gentleman saying, he wondered how Mr. Kelly should be retained by the ministry ; another answered, that as they could get no *man* to write for them, he therefore offered himself, because he was a *woman's taylor* ; and as a man's taylor is said to be but a *ninth* part of a *man*, Kelly could not be thought to be more than the eighteenth part of one.

56. A person asking why Kelly should intitle his comedy *A Word to the Wise*, another answered, he did it to avoid dedicating it to his old patroness the *mother* of the city ; because he knew she had no claim to such a *word* or *title*.

57. A person being taken in company with a woman by the constable of the night, he began to expostulate with him; upon which the constable answered, Sir, I am his majesty's representative, and I shall *not regard remonstrances.*

58. An honest Hibernian reading the letters signed *Junius*, says to his friend, Arrah, my dear, it is impossible to find out who this Mr. *Junius* is, for no man living can write any thing like it.

59. A gentleman asking his friend, why a certain speech should open with an observation upon horned cattle; he replied, the speaker might be much in the same situation as David, for he roars out as much against the *fat bulls of Basan.*

60. A gentleman in his addresses to a young lady, told her that she was the handsomest woman he ever saw; she said she believed him. The lover continued, I am unhappy with-

without you : I believe you, says the young lady again : I will die for you, says the lover : I wish you would make your words good, replied the lady.

61. A gentleman in liquor knocking at the church-door instead of his own, a person going by, asked him why he knocked there ? Because it is *my* house, replies the gentleman. That's a mistake, says the passenger, for it is the *Lord's house*. If it be, says the gentleman, I should have got in before now ; for the scripture says, *Knock*, and it shall be opened.

62. A gentleman being intoxicated, knocked at another house ; the maid looking out of the window, told him he was under a mistake, for he lived at the next door ; never mind that, says he, come down and let me in.

63. A fire happening at a public house, one of the crowd was very pressing with the
engi-

engineer to play against the wainscot ; but being told it was in no danger ; I am sorry for that, said he, because I have a long score upon it, which I shall never be able to pay.

64. When Mr. Wilkes was leaving the King's-Bench prison, a gentleman confined there for debt, told him he was very *sorry* he was going from thence ; on which the patriot replied, he did not speak like a friend, for he ought to be *glad* he was a-going.

65. The day after Mr. Wilkes quitted the King's-Bench, Sir R—d P—rr—tt applied to the marshal for his room ; on which he replied, no, Sir, I shall not let any one have it ; I will reserve it for Mr. Wilkes himself, for I doubt not but he will return soon, and will be very glad of his old lodging.

66. A person writing to his friend an account of the execution of a baker in the country, expressed himself in the following terms : When he came to the gallows he
was

was very *crusty*, and seemed to the last to be *loaf* to die.

67. A member in a certain august assembly, speaking very loud, a gentleman in the opposition cut him short, by asking him what vessels made the greatest noise ?

68. An affectionate wife making a great lamentation over her husband, who was dangerously ill ; he bid her dry up her tears ; adding, that possibly he might recover ; on which she replied, the very thoughts of that makes me shed tears whether I will or no.

69. An Irishman running against a blind man, he hit him on the head with his staff, which Paddy having scratched, he exclaimed, Arrah, by my shoul, I did not know that a blind man could sa so well as to take such an aim before.

70. An idiot in the country, remarkable for the observations he made on the changes of
of

of the moon, being asked by a lawyer, when the sun would change ; he immediately replied, when lawyers do go to heaven.

71. An Irishman having narrowly escaped drowning, as he was bathing in a river, as soon as he was got to land, cries out, By Jafus, I will never be after going into the water again, till I have learned to swim.

72. An Irishman being acquitted on his trial for want of evidence, the judge made a speech to him on the narrow escape he had of being brought to the gallows, concluded, that as he had escaped, it would be a warning to him, and that he never should see him there any more ; on which the Irishman replied, By Jafus, my lord, I will be hang'd before I do.

73. A principal of one of the colleges at Oxford, generally used to give advice to the young gentlemen, on their quitting the university, among which was the following remarkable

markable sentence : Whatever you do, keep from marriage till you have got a good living ; for if you marry while you are a curate, you will never rise till the resurrection.

74. A gentleman in liquor reeling homewards, was met by a footpad, who bid him, Stand and deliver ; to which the gentleman replied, Well, honest friend, you see I cannot *stand*, but I can *deliver*, and disembogued all over him.

75. As a country 'squire was shaving in town, he says to the barber, They do say here as how that I has a soft place in my head ; what dost thou think of it ? Canst tell me where it is ? The barber made a low bow, and replied, Sir, as for the matter of that, I believe you are not belied, for your head is soft all over.

76. A widow lady being in a treaty of marriage for her daughter, says to the suitor, Sir, what settlement will you make upon her ?

her? I will settle myself *upon* her, replies the gentleman, and she will find me *sufficient*.

77. A bishop once told his chaplain, that he thought he was not devout enough in reading prayers; my lord, says he, there is a reason for that: When I am as well paid for my devotion as your lordship, I'll lay a wager I would beat you ten to one.

78. A courtier said to a violent and needy patriot; they say you are so troublesome to the ministry only because you want a place: I wish they would put me to the trial; answered the patriot.

79. A gentleman saying to a friend of liberty; I wonder why the ministry are so inveterate against Mr. Wilkes; the patriot replied, for this reason, because he can see more ways than they can.

80. A courtly common-councilman saying, on the rejection of Mr. Patterson as member for the city of London; He wondered what a certain assembly would do upon the committee of ways and means; Do very well, says his friend; they never will want ways, and they may be *mean* enough without him.

81. A gentleman saying he was astonished that the father of the city should protest against the remonstrance; his friend answered, it was not the first time that a father chastised his children.

82. A person wondering why the collection for the Magdalens should exceed that of the orphans of the clergy; a person replied, the reason was, that people did not chuse to give twice to the same person, which they must do if they gave to them, both when they were infant orphans, and when they were adult prostitutes.

83. A person asking why the convocation robes of a doctor of divinity should be scarlet, and those of every other divine black; he was answered, that the others mourned for their faults; but the doctor resembled the officers of the army, who gloried in theirs.

84. A gentleman asking a Cantab—— why the university of Cambridge should chuse the duke of Grafton for their chancellor; he replied, not only because he loves *parsons*, but likewise because his grace is a great jocky; and our university is more famous for the races at Newmarket than any thing else.

85. I will lay my life to a farthing, says a warm patriot, that the parliament will be dissolved in less than a fortnight; done, says a gentleman; there I have laid down my farthing, do you lay down your *life*.

86. A prelate inquiring of a dignified clergyman, of the health of a gentleman who

was of a studious cast ; he replied, he was better than he had been : I would have him, says the prelate, take a little more exercise, and ride on horseback : that he does, replies the clergyman ; for, to my certain knowledge, he has been upon the *white horse* in the book of the *Revelations* for these two months.

87. A prelate, in his visitation, reprimanding a clergyman for not dressing more suitable to his function ; he replied, my lord, when I am *paid* like a clergyman I will dress like one.

88. When Mr. Oliver offered himself a candidate to succeed Wm. Beckford, esq; as member for London, a gentleman observed, that he ought to have the preference to any other, as the constitution stood in need of an *Oliver* to preserve the liberty of the subject.

89. A gentleman observing that one of the city members was very improperly stiled the father of the city; another immediately replied, that he was called so in the same sense as *Lucus* is used in Latin, to signify a *grove*, which is derived from *luceo* to *shine*.

90. A country-woman who had a cast in her eye, being employed in teaching her grandson the alphabet, advanced as far as the letter b; but the boy being at a stand, she says to him, Look in my face and see what I do now: squint, grandmama, says the boy: you should not say so, replies the grandmother; but you should say *see*. Thank you kindly for that, says the boy; but you forgot you told me as thof I should never tell *lies*.

91. An English militia-man walking on the sea-coast with a Scotch captain, was boasting of his adroitness in his manœuvres; and frequently finished his sentence, saying, What could you do? What could you do?

The Scot being tired with his impertinence, seized him by the waistband of his breeches, and tossed him into the sea, saying at the same time, I can do that.

92. A person being at the review on Blackheath, took particular notice of the intrepidity of a great personage; and observed to his friend, that though the noise of the firing was really tremendous, yet his majesty did not care a *button* for it.

93. One *Paul Verges* being on the jury for the trial of Mr. Almon, for publishing Junius's letter to the king; one of the jury, who endeavoured to persuade the rest of the pannel to acquiesce with him in his opinion, finished his sentence in the following manner: I see it is impossible to *sweeten* you, while you are so fond of *verjuice*.

94. A person asking another in court, the definition of a *libel*; he answered, it was a *lie*, and a *bell* affixed to it; because unless it

was

was published it was not cognizable by a court of justice.

95. An Irishman seeing the funeral procession of the late lord-mayor (Beckford) cried out, By Jafus, it is a wonder that so great a man should die, when the whole nation would have lent him a little more breath, if he would have let them have it again when they wanted it; but as he was now gone, he sincerely lamented him; and he believed he should cry his eyes out for vexation, that it was not in his power to shed a tear.

96. A countryman having killed another in fighting, the jury withdrew to consider of their verdict; but the foreman considering it as a critical point, called in the assistance of one John Shepherd, who, being consulted, gave it as his opinion, that it would be hard to bring in the defendant as guilty of *murder*; but they should bring him in guilty *only of shortening* the days of the deceased.

They

They acquiesced in his opinion ; and when the judge asked what verdict ; the foreman replied, guilty of shortening his days. The judge expressing his surprize, the foreman supported his verdict in the following manner : Why, an please your lordship, John Shepherd observes as how it would be a cruel pity to hang the defendant for the murder of the deceased ; especially as the defendant is a strong hale man, and might live a matter of thirty years or more ; whereas the deceased was in such a bad habit of body, that he cou'dn't have lived more than a month ; and wou'd have died of his *own accord* ; therefore, as John Shepherd observes, he *only shortened his days* : and this is our verdict ; and we be determined to abide by it.

97. A countryman who was generally fuddled all day, once made his nephew (a little boy) as drunk as himself : the lad, who had often observed his uncle in the same condition, cries out, Oh ! how I pity my uncle ; oh ! how I pity my uncle.

98. A

98. A lady of great distinction going abroad, at the same time as lord Holland returned from France, a person observed, that the lady might furnish herself abroad, though she left her *holland* behind her ; for she might easily be supplied with linnen, but could not so easily part with her *Butey*.

99. A painter, who was somewhat jealous of his wife, having occasion to go abroad on particular business, begged she wou'd consent to let him paint a lamb upon her belly, and that it might remain there till his return ; the wife readily consented. Soon after the departure of the painter, a jolly young merchant made *warm* love to his wife ; and in a short time obtained, not only a grant, but *her real* favours. This gentleman, on a particular examination, observed the lamb upon her belly, and desired her to give him leave to take his pencil and refresh the painting : this favour was also granted him. When the painter returned, he examined the painting on his wife's *belly*,
and

and observed that the lamb had got horns, though he had painted it without any ; to which the wife replied, My dear, consider it is upwards of a year since you have been gone ; and if it was a lamb then, it must now be a sheep, and, according to the course of nature, shou'd have horns.

100. A gentleman being asked in company, whether he was not a Scot ; replied, no, thank God ; I have left Scotland.

101. A celebrated doctor of divinity in Oxford, being engaged in a lecture in his own lodgings, rung the bell for his man ; but the maid coming, he asked where the man was ; he is upstairs with my lady, replies the maid. Go and tell him, says the doctor, I want him. The maid went ; and when she came back again, told the doctor, that the man was above very busy with his mistress, and that she cou'd not part with him.—Very busy with thy mistress ! says the doctor — pulling off his spectacles ; I
can't

can't imagine what they can be at — and immediately left his pupils to satisfy himself.

102. It being reported that a certain great personage had fractured his head by a fall from his horse, one of the company observed, that it might be true that he had met with a fall; but as for his fracturing his *head*, he could not believe it, and was certain there could be *nothing in it*.

103. A gentle sprinkling of rain happening, a plough-boy left his work; but his master seeing him there, told him that he shou'd not have left his work for so trifling an affair, and begged for the future he wou'd stay till it rained *downright*. A day or two afterwards proving a very rainy day, the boy stayed till dusk, and being almost drowned, his master asked him why he did not come before; why, I shou'd, says the boy, but you zed I shou'dn't come hoam vore it rained *downright*; and it has not
rained

rained *downright* yet, for it was assaunt all day long.

104. A very thin lady, who was visiting a fellow of a college, who was extremely corpulent, says to him, I wish I had some of your *fat*, doctor. Supposing I could give it you, replies the fellow, would your ladyship chuse to have it by the *yard*, or by the *stone*.

105. A gentleman laid a wager that he weighed fourteen stone; but finding himself to be only thirteen, his wife, who was present, made him the following address: My dear, I thought you had lost *one stone* for some time.

106. The son of an unpopular nobleman going through a village, which was ornamented with the inscription of "Wilkes and Liberty, No. 45," on every door and shutter; he lighted at the door of the lord of the manor, and testified his displeasure that
he

he shou'd suffer his tenants to be guilty of such a crime. You may be angry, my lord, says the gentleman, without cause; for if they did not write No. 45 there, they would a certain monosyllable; and I believe that is far worse.

107. A gentleman riding over a common in Hertfordshire, asked a countryman what it was called; *No-man's-land*, answered the countryman. What is the name of the woman it belongs to? replies the gentleman: I don't know, says the countryman; for it has been called *No-man's-land* ever since I was born.

108. A gentleman having sent several jokes on the unfortunate *Word to the Wise*, to a certain daily news-paper, and not finding any of them inserted, asked the reason; the conscientious typographer *modestly* replied, that as the piece had *miscarried*, he had a *sort of fellow feeling* for the author; at the same time assuring the gentleman, that if it

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had

had met with success, he wou'd have done *every thing in his power to damn it.*

109. A facetious gentleman observing to the writer of this, that there was *no joke like a true joke*, began to entertain him, over a *bowl of righteous*, at Ashley's, with a true narrative; having first sent for a brother mercer on the Hill. On the mercer's entering the room, which was a private one, and passing the usual and friendly salutations, begged him to be seated: when the facetious gentleman began to interrogate him in the writer's presence, who was no stranger to either; but not without an oath of secrecy, all three being *brothers*; assuring him the history wou'd *turn out much to his advantage*. Well, Sir, proceed. Then, Sir, says he, was not you, some few years since, robbed on Hounslow-heath, of upwards of three hundred pounds? Sir, I was, answered he, which was *almost* my ruin; and I can hardly say I have recovered it yet. Well, says the other, I am the man; pulling out a
purse

purse of fifteen hundred guineas, earnestly intreating him to accept of the whole, or such a part as wou'd fully recompence him. This surprising generosity so much excited the other to true benevolence, that he not only forgave him, but offered him his only daughter in marriage, who had no less than seventy thousand pounds left her by a near relation. The daughter was young and beautiful; the *match was struck*; the parson was sent for; the *conjugal knot tied*; and they now live in the strictest love and unity, with a numerous offspring.—*A remarkable instance of gratitude.*

110. A merry wag, at the Eagle-and-child, in Shoe-lane, discoursing with some *button-makers*, remarkable for boasting of their ingenuity in *so princely* an art, asked one of them (when he was surfeited with their nonsense) what he thought of the answer that was given to the city remonstrance? Think, says he, prithee keep to your text, why I say as many more do, of our *polite* art, that at that

very

very time *even his majesty's arse made buttons.*
 What signifies your chattering? So here's a
good health to all button-makers.

III. A gentleman, at Nando's Coffee-house, asked his correspondent what he thought of *the times*; who answered *very freely*, Why, Sir, the whole discourse of the city is now concerning the *button-makers*; in-
 somuch that it is confidently said, in the neighbourhood of St. James's, *that a certain button-maker has determined to bring up all his children to that royal art; when sleeve-buttons will be sold for a farthing a pair; and that if the parliament is not dissolved, even buttons for the collar will be made very cheap.*

II2. The famous Dr. Croxall, who was chaplain in ordinary to his majesty, and in expectation of a *bishop's-prick*, unluckily chose for his text, *Take away the ministers from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness*; for which he was banished the court.

II3. Orator

113. Orator Henley expressing his mind very freely, in the time of the rebellion, that he wou'd sooner *kiss Charley's arse than he wou'd Georgey's hand*, was told by a *flattering courtier*, he was a disaffected fellow, and his speech and person ought to be *dissected*. The Orator hastily drew his sword, and swore by the point of it, he was a *man*, and had taken the oath of *allegiance* to the *turnip-merchant*; and his meaning was this; *if he could approach so near to Charley as to kiss his arse, he could easily take him by the collar; and by that means obtain the bounty money.*

114. On a gentleman's perusal of Dr. Young's *Night Thoughts*, he was asked his opinion; upon which he frankly owned, he thought the chiefest error was in the title-page; for they were not only *night thoughts*, but worthy of *day thoughts*.

115. It is recorded of that great prince Dionysius, when a poor man begged alms of him, he gave him a halfpenny; on which he went

away grumbling. Grumble not, poor man, says he, if every man in my kingdom was to do the same, you wou'd be more rich than Dyonisius himself.

116. In the reign of Charles I. of *headless* memory, the parliament *ordered*, That Tom Clarke the fool be paid *ten pounds*, without certifying any services done; one of the minority said, he had been a *tool* to the nation for three parliaments, and was not one *fart-thing* the better.

117. When the late deputy Gammon, a noted common-councilman of Farrington-without, and an experienced *apothecary*, was charged with indelicacy, in saying he wou'd not *turn his arse* to the whole college of *physicians*; he replied, No, gentlemen, *I have more manners.*

118. A gentleman lately coming to London, met with a friend near Temple-bar; and after *thrice greeting* each other, agreed to
take

take a glass at the *Devil*; where the discourse was turned upon the oddity of the *name*, and the goodness of the *champaign*: Sir, says the country gentleman, I have proposed this place for our *present*, pray do you nominate your's for our evening's pastime. Then, Sir, to be *free* with you as a *brother*, and without any farther ceremony, I shall expect the honour of your company at the *New Jerusalem (Clerkenwell.)*

119. When the window-light tax was disputed in parliament, admiral Vernon declared his opinion, that there was *no nation this side hell taxed like this nation*: well done boatswain, cries another. Soon after coming out of the house, and calling for his coachman, *Where's my fellow?* cried he. *Not this side hell*, says another.

120. The *button-maker* being asked by one of his attendants, what he wished to be done with Wilkes; he answered, to have his head fitted in one of Tyburn *button-holes*.

121. A

121. A married man, when he died, went to St. Peter and claimed his right; who asked what he was; on which he answered a *married man*. St. Peter bid him welcome, because he had been *sufficiently tormented*, and was now *worthy a crown of glory*.

122. A gentleman and a lady sitting together talking, he complained sadly of the tooth-ach, and wished it were in her tail: the lady answered, if your *tooth were in my tail* it wou'd do it but little good; but if there be *any thing in my tail* that wou'd do your tooth good, I cou'd wish it was in it.

123. A merry young gentleman of twenty, discoursing with a rich lady, who was also merrily disposed; she observed that his beard was but young on the upper lip, and still younger beneath; and said to him, Sir, you have a beard above and none below: to this he merrily answered, madam, *you have a beard below and none above*. Well then, quoth she, *set one against the other*.

124. In

124. In an eminent merchant's house near Crutched-fryars, was a maid quick with child ; whom, when her mistress asked who was the father ; replied, no body, madam. Her mistress returned, it is not possible but some man must be the father of the child. Why, mistress, said the *poor innocent creature*, may not I have a child without a man, as well as a *hen lay eggs without a cock*.

125. One asking a friend who was employed in procuring him a wife, why he chose him so little a wife ; replied, Among all *evils* the *least* is to be chosen.

126. A young man lately married in the country, was determined to get the master of his wife in time. And seeing the pot on the fire, though the meat was not enough, ordered her to take the pot off ; the good woman, loth to offend, set the pot aside : he commanded her to put it behind the door ; which she willingly did : and again he ordered her to set the pot upon the hen-roost ; says the wife,

wife, I believe you are mad ; but fearing his repentment, took a ladder, with the pot in her hand, praying her husband to hold the ladder ; and when the husband looked up, now stands the pot as I would have it, quoth he : then the wife poured the hot pottage on his head, saying, *be the pottage as I would have them.*

127. A shoemaker thinking to deride a collier because he was so black, asked him what news in hell, and how the devil did ; the collier replied, the devil was well when he saw him last, for he was going to ride out, and only waited for a *shoemaker to pull on his boots.*

128. A gentleman married a wife of great riches and beauty, but dumb ; whereupon he applied for a remedy ; the physician ordered an aspin leaf to be laid under her tongue ; the next day asking her how she did, she replied, the medicine had restored her to her speech ;
when

when she became such a damnable scold that he often wished her in her former *dumb* state.

129. The same gentleman telling the affair to his physician, applied for a medicine to *moderate* her tongue; who answered him thus: *Sir, I am a devil of hell, and have power to make a woman speak; but all the devils in hell could not silence a noisy woman.*

130. When Dr. Trap was preaching at Christ-church, and finding such indecency in the women, by their continual *chat*, he suddenly sat himself down; the women imagining he was taken ill, were struck with a silent surprize; then the reverend divine stood up, and said, *Now ladies you have done, 'tis time for me to begin again.*

131. At a public disputation on infant baptism, between a church divine, a presbyterian and baptist, the latter insisted, that the *eunuch* so thoroughly approved of plunging, that he went straightway out of the water, with a
full

full resolution to have his wife, and children, immediately plunged.

132. A profligate wretch, on hearing the words, *There was silence in heaven for the space of half an hour*, swore there was no women there; because, says he, *'tis impossible for a woman to hold her tongue so long.*

133. A gentleman having a trial at law concerning a mortgage estate, before a country judge, and the attorney frequently making use of the words *mortgager* and *mortgagee*; the judge desired him to explain the different meanings of those words. Then, Sir, we'll suppose for instance,

I nod at you, you nod at me;

I'm the nodder, but you're the noddee.

134. A gentleman once saying a *turnip-merchant* was like a *button-maker*, occasioned a loud laugh in the company, saying, *that's a metaphor we never met before.*

135. A gentleman intending to travel into the *holy land*, was desirous to know by what means he might know an honest Hibernian ; the only way, says his friend, who had often travelled that country, is to examine the palm of his right hand, and if you find a *lock of hair* growing, you may depend on his fidelity.

136. Henry the IVth of France, with many of his courtiers, being once upon the Seine when it was frozen, they diverted themselves with sliding ; and the king going to do the same was dissuaded by the marshal de Bassompierre, who told him there was danger of falling in : why, says the king, you see the courtiers slide, and come to no harm ; yes, says Bassompierre, but your majesty is of more *weight* than all of them when put together.

137. The republic of Venice having given offence to the king of France, the doge was obliged to go to Versailles to appease his re-

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sentment. As he was viewing the curiosities of the place, he was asked, what he thought most extraordinary? *To see myself here,* says the doge.

138. A priest being once called to baptize a child, was so fuddled that he cou'd not find the service; and while he was fumbling over the leaves, he cried out, *Ah! this child is very hard to be christened!*

139. It was said of a man who always spunged his meals abroad, and was yet a back-biter, *That he never opened his mouth but at other people's expence.*

140. A painter, who was a wretched dauber, and very conceited, said, That he must have his house white-wash'd, because he intended to paint it: why, said another, *If it was my house you should paint it first.*

141. Henry the IVth of France being told that a celebrated physician of the Reformed Religion

Religion had turned Catholic, said to the duke of Sully, who was a protestant, *My friend, your religion is in a desperate case; the physicians have given it over.*

142. It was said of a sermon, where there was a very thin audience, that it was *the voice of one crying in the wilderness.*

143. Lewis the XIVth seeing two courtiers riding full speed, the foremost being a person who had a remarkable long chin, and the hindmost scarce any chin at all, asked, whether they were going in such haste? *The foremost, says M. Clerambaut, has robbed the hindmost of his chin, and he is in pursuit of him to recover it.*

144. The emperor Sigismund left a widow in the bloom of youth, and extremely beautiful: one of her relations advised her never to marry again, because, says he, you ought to imitate the *turtle dove.* *Will it not suffice,* says she, *if I imitate the dove?* It's observable

able that the *turtle* chuses no *second* mate, but the *dove* does.

145. As the duke of Sully was going, one morning, into the chamber of Harry the IVth of France, he met a lady whom he knew to have been with him on a private account. When Sully came, the king began to complain in a mournful tone, *Ah, Sully, I have had a fever upon me all this morning, it has but just left me.* I know it, Sir, says Sully, for *I met it going away all in green.*

146. A pawnbroker being upon his death-bed, the priest who attended him held up a silver crucifix; the poor dying man, *forgetful of his Jesus*, fixed his eyes upon it, crying out, in a faint tone, *I cannot lend much upon it.*

147. A Roman Catholic lady, who had a very bad husband, praying to a saint for his reformation, he soon after died; *how good is this saint*, says she, *he grants me more than I asked.*

148. Philip the IV. having assumed the surname of *Great*, just when he was stripp'd of part of his dominions, it was said that the term *great* was no otherwise applicable to him than to pits, which is so much the *greater* as more is taken out of them.

149. A person having endeavoured to prove that the world, notwithstanding the moral and natural evil of it, was very good, being opposed by one who declared he saw nothing but evil in the world; *Phoo*, says the other, *why you look only at the world's backside.*

150. Ben. Johnson and Sylvester disputing their talents in poetry, the latter began with saying,

I Sylvester

Lay with your sister.

The other answered,

I Ben. Johnson lay with your wife.

Sylvester insisted that what he said was *rhyme*, and Johnson declared his to be *truth*, which was preferable to *falsehood*.

151. An ambassador viewing the fine bridge which was built by Philip II. over the Mancañares, a river that is generally dry, said, *Surely this bridge should be sold to buy water.*

152. A great personage having dismissed a young lady from an honourable station, declared, *that her maids of honour shall all be honourable maids.*

153. A poor old trusty farmer, on the death of the lord of the manor, waited on the young graceless heir, with his son, expecting he would do great things for his boy now he had come to the possession of so large an estate; but the spendthrift told him he could not do for himself, far less for him or his boy either. Well, well, says the farmer, I must e'en recommend my son to God Almighty, and see what he will do for him. You cou'd never go to a worse hand, replied the impious wretch; only think how he treated his own son, and at last *brought him to the gallows.*

134. The honest farmer replied, with a great deal of gravity, *Think, Mr. Spendthrift, you are the person that brought him to the gallows.*

155. General Slater, who was by trade a weaver, being in company with a *button-maker*, the discourse turned on trade; *Well,* says the weaver, *I have many years wove the cloth; your uncle gave it a scarlet dye; it now remains for you to make the buttons.*

156. A diseased person told his friend, he was heartily tired of his physicians; their grave profession was so trifling and tedious. His friend replied, *I believe it to be a grave profession indeed.*

157. Two players going too frequently to Mr. Wood, their treasurer, to borrow money, were answered in the negative: upon which one said to the other, *If we can't get Cole we must burn Wood; which so terrified*
Mr.

Mr. Wood, that he granted the whole of their request.

157. When his late majesty was surprized by a storm at sea, a certain prelate was more than ordinarily tender on the occasion ; and asking the captain whether he thought there was any real danger ; he answered, *By G—d, my lord, I believe we shall all be in heaven in a minute ; God forbid, says his lordship.*

158. A clergyman in the country, at the request of his parishioners, prays for rain ; and as he was in the vestry, after prayers, the clerk telling him, that there was a very heavy shower ; God forbid, says the doctor, for I have not brought my *great coat* with me.

159. A celebrated prelate being in a very great passion with one of his chaplains, told him he was the greatest fool he ever saw ; that may be, says the chaplain, *but you know it*

it is good manners always to except the company present.

160. A captain of an East-Indiaman invited a clergyman to go with him to his ship—as they were in the boat together, the water was very rough, and the wind was very high; the clergyman says, Captain is not the water rough? It is, replies the captain. Is not the wind very high? says the clergyman. It is very high, replies the captain. What then; is there any danger? says the clergyman. Yes, says the captain; but I and my men can swim very well.

161. When the jury brought in their verdict on Mr. Woodfall's trial, for publishing *Junius's letter to the king*, guilty of *printing and publishing*; a gentleman in court observed, that his only *guilt* then was to be a printer and publisher.

162. When the two juries, on the trials of Miller and Baldwin, brought in their verdict,

verdict, *Not guilty*, for printing Junius's letter; a crown lawyer made this pertinent reply, *If they are not guilty, then we are.*

163. It being much altercated whether the late lord mayor, William Beckford, esq; should be represented in his statue *standing* or *kneeling*, an honest Hibernian observed, that if he were either *standing* or *kneeling*, it would be a *standing* reproach to the friends of arbitrary power.

164. A person being much chagrined at the election of Mr. Oliver, for the city of London, *without opposition*, a gentleman observed *old Oliver would never admit of opposition.*

165. A dog on a sunshine day was swimming cross a river, with a large piece of flesh in his mouth. He saw a shadow under the water, and took it for another cur, with such a prey in his chops; but whilst he snapped at the shadow he lost the substance;

stance ; upon which he passed this wise reflection upon his conduct, which may serve as a lesson to all avaricious persons : *What a wretch art thou, says he, in being so greedy ? Hadst thou known when thou wast well, thou wouldst have had thy belly full ; but now thou must fast for thy folly.*

166. A gentleman, with many of his tenants, concluded upon a hunting match, and agreed to go shares in the game : they ran down a stag, which was divided in so many parts, and which they were each of them seising upon as his own ; but the landlord, who was for all or none, opposed the design. *Fair and softly, says he, in an angry tone, hands off ; this part belongs to me upon the account of my quality ; this because I have taken the most pains in hunting ; and the rest I have a right to, because none of you are able to dispute the title with me : and thus he ran away with the whole.*

167. An honest ploughman met with a snake half frozen to death in the snow; he carried him home, and in pure pity clapp'd him before the fire. Soon after the snake came to his senses, and began to spit and hiss as if the devil was in him. On this the countryman immediately accosted him with a good cudgel in his hand; *How now, ye ungrateful wretch, says he, is this all the thanks I have for my labour? Did I save your life, and are you for taking away mine?*

168. A poor country parson, who was unprovided with a Sunday's dinner, just before he went to church, sent his maid to a neighbour, whose name was *Paul*, for some bacon and eggs upon credit; but having a tedious score unpaid, the poor parson's *light was out*, and the maid received for answer, that her master must *pay off the old score first*: Then the maid, having no dinner to dress, repaired to the church, and on her master bawling out, *What says Paul?* the poor ignorant girl replied,

replied, with a loud voice, *Paul says, pay the old score first.*

169. A unexperienced typographer being sent by the chapel to the bookseller, according to ancient custom, for something to drink, after giving their compliments as usual, begg'd he wou'd send something to *make* them drink ; the honest bookseller complied with the request, and sent them some *pickled herrings.*

170. The same person inquiring for the chapel sponge, was answer'd, *the maid has it ;* and he, innocently, asking the maid if she had the chapel sponge ; she declared she had not ; and that she had none but her own ; but *generously said that it should be at the service of the chapel by night or by day, except when her master wanted it.*

171. Not long ago a sham gentleman, with his glittering sword and shining apparel, took a fancy to cast his usual abusive language on

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a poor

a poor but honest man, threatening to draw upon him; on which the poor man replied, *If thou wert a man, as thou art a gilded fly with a needle in your arse, I wou'd soon chastise thee for thy folly; but thou art beneath my revenge. Fear on then as long as thou wilt, thou poor inconsiderate animal, for the baseness of thy character is the saving of thy life.*

172. A gentleman's dog fawn'd and leap'd upon his master, and the whole family was very fond of the good-natur'd cur. An ass seeing this, was highly affronted, for he fancied it was not likely such a useless whelp shou'd be so caress'd and fed with the best, were it not for his frisking and capering on his master; whereas he was forced to work, and had no other reward than dry blows: *Well, says he, if this be the trade, I'll try what a fine knack I have in making my courtship.* His good master was coming home, and the ass met him, leap'd upon his shoulders, and began to lick him. The gentleman,
man,

man; who did not like such rough compliments, cried out for his servants, who, with cudgels in their hands, gave the ass to understand *the difference between the two play-fellows.*

173. A sick daughter, upon her death-bed, beg'd her mother to put up her prayers to the Gods for her recovery: *No child,* says the mother, *what favour canst thou expect from the Gods, who hast so often defiled and pillaged their altars?*

174. Whilst a man was sowing of hemp-seed, the son prayed to the birds to hinder the crop; but the good old mother standing by, severely checked the son, saying, *It may be for your and your father's use.* Which soon after proved to be fact, for they were both executed for the murder of the poor woman in Somersetshire.

175. Oliver Cromwell once told the parliament, that *since they were not contented under a peace-*

a peaceable and good-natured government, the time would come when they would groan under the oppressions of a tyrant ; and even a button-maker should rule over them.

176. Some gentlemen meeting at a public house and discoursing on the merits of the late pious and learned archbishop Sherlock, an honest Irishman said, *Arrab, by Jafus, he is an honest cock as ever piss'd.* Sir, says one of the company, had you any intimate acquaintance with him ? *Shure I had,* replied he, *you mean Sherlock the prize-fighter ; shure I knew him ; and, more than that, we were as great as two pick-pockets.*

177. An honest Hibernian, piping-hot from the *Holy Land*, had brought a letter for one Obrian ; and was directed to leave it at No. 46. St. James's-street : the honest well-meaning man, by mistake, goes to 45, *Arrab now, does my worthy good friend live here ?* quoth he. The servant replied, *Pray who is he ? and what may his name be ? Why,*
by

by my shoul, his name was capt. Obrian, a captain of a troop of horse by sea.

178. A mercer on Ludgate-Hill employed a painter to paint him a sign of the Bear; but wou'd not be at the expence of a chain: some time after came a shower of rain, and washed the bear away: *I told you, says the painter, there's no confining a bear without a chain.*

179. The button-maker being asked what cou'd be *now* done for Mr. Wilkes, answered, Let him alone, and he will *soon* DO FOR HIMSELF.

180. Parson Bradbury being tried for sodomitical practices with a very devout young man of his congregation, which lasted for nine hours; the youth on a sudden burst into tears: and being asked, by the judge, what he cry'd for, replied, *All I have sworn is false.* And Parson Bradbury was acquitted.

181. The same parson, who once cry'd the *Farthing Post* about London streets, had the audaciousness to bring, the very evening of his discharge, a beautiful young woman to Glover's-Hall, his constant place of preaching, and chose for his text, *Can the Ethiopian change his skin? or the leopard his spots? how then can he, who is accustomed to do evil, learn to do well?* The young lady replied, Sir, if you can't *change your skin*, you may *your bed-fellow*.

182. When George I. generously offered, the better to ingratiate himself with the English, to part with Hanover, the then ministry advised him to keep it as a retreat in the worst of times, for all the sufferings of the Stuart family were owing to their not having a home. *Quere, Was the ministry then an English one.*

183. A wholesale stationer, an ignorant coxcomb, who by his impudence had forced himself into pretty good business, told a
gentle-

gentleman he heartily *despised* his customers. The gentleman replied, he thought they deserved it, and that they would be *despicable* wretches indeed if they were his customers any longer.

184. The earl of Hadington, in his poem entitled, *The dying Toast*, relates a dispute between two *virtuous virgins* about the accomplishments of their respective lovers; the one insisting for *length*, the other for *thickness*.

Dear friends, were I to chuse a p——,
Cry'd out the gasping toast,
I'd have it long—I'd have it thick—
And then gave up the ghost.

185. Miss Nanny, having the preceding day been made a bride, reflected on her dear Willie thus :

To honour you have no regard,
You false, you perjur'd man,
How could you swear it was a yard,
When it is scarce a span?

F I N I S.

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CONTENTS of Vol. I.

Tale 1. The Fright. 2. The Crystal Bot-
tle. 3. The Disappointment. 4. The Long-
ing Woman. 5. The Ninevite. 6. Much
Noise and little Wool. 7. The Question.
8. Well judged. 9. The Crab. 10. The
Chaplain. 11. The Ink Bottle. 12. The
Simpleton. 13. Miss and the Parson. 14.
The Prayer-book. 15. The Filthy Beast. 16.
The Apocrypha. 17. The Nun. 18. The
Way to Learn. 19. The Dream. 20. The
Self-deny'd.

CONTENTS of Vol. II.

Tale 21. The 'Squire. 22. The Tooth-
drawer. 23. A True Story. 24. The Que-
stion to Dr. A——, with the Doctor's An-
swer. 25. Good Advice. 26. Fifty Pounds
saved. 27. The Excuse. 28. The Adven-
ture. 29. The gray Mare the better Horse.
30. The Sutler. 31. Foul Play. 32. Old
Recky. 33. The Raven. 34. Small Print.
35. The Boots. 36. Marion's Dream. 37.
The Rebuke. 38. A ridiculous Discovery.
39. The Tell-Tale. 40. The Dying Toast.
A Song. The Duke of Argyle's Levee.

